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Adm. Turner, C.I.A. Chief, Plans To Resign His Navy Commission

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 (UPI) — Adm. Stansfield Turner, the Director of Central Intelligence, will resign his admiral's commission on Dec. 31 but will remain as head of the Central Intelligence Agency, a spokesman said today.

The move will allow the 54-year-old admiral to collect a \$20,000 annual pension in addition to his \$57,500 salary as Director of Central Intelligence.

Herbert Hetu, a spokesman for the intelligence agency, said Admiral Turner had been considering leaving active duty for some months.

By retiring before next Jan. 10, however, he will avoid coming under a new legal provision designed to end the practice of "double-dipping," or collecting a Government salary and a military pension at the same time. That provision is to be changed for all military and naval officers who retire after Jan. 10.

When Admiral Turner took the C.I.A. job last year, he did so on his condition that he remain on active duty in the Navy.

Other Top Jobs Filled

Sources at the Pentagon said other top military jobs to which the Director might have aspired, such as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Naval Operations or supreme commander of North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces, had either been filled in recent months or their present occupants had been given an extension.

Admiral Turner's regular pension as a full admiral with 30 years of service would be \$35,624 a year. Under double-dipping rules, he can collect only \$20,212 as long as he holds a civilian post in the Government post, a Pentagon spokesman said.

Mr. Hetu described as untrue reports that President Carter was considering replacing Admiral Turner as intelligence chief because the C.I.A. failed to predict Iran's political crisis.

Admiral Turner also came under fire

from members of the intelligence agency itself for his "Halloween massacre" last year, when it became known that more than 800 veteran members of the agency would be laid off or retired prematurely as part of an efficiency campaign.

The Director defended the decision, saying the agency was overstaffed because of the Vietnam War, that technical means were replacing the traditional cloak-and-dagger operative and that the decks had to be cleared for younger men coming up from the ranks.